CLAIMS:

1. A pipe joint between two metallic pipes which have been internally and/or externally coated with a material to prevent corrosion, said joint including a spigot and a socket, said socket having an internal circumferential groove that provides a seating for an elastomeric sealing ring, and forwardly of which groove an extension is provided which provides a welding location remote from the sealing ring with the coating on the end of the socket if necessary having been removed to facilitate welding, said spigot having a heat sink member to enable the lip of the socket to be welded to the metal of the spigot.

2. A pipe joint as claimed in claim 1, wherein the heat sink member is a metal band attached to an extending circumferentially around said spigot.

3. A pipe joint as claimed in claim 1 or 2, wherein the pipe having the socket is coated both internally and externally with the material to prevent corrosion except at the extreme end of the socket where no coating has been provided or has been removed, whilst the exterior of the spigot is coated with the material to prevent corrosion except at the location of the heat sink.

4. A method of forming a pipe joint between the spigot and socket ends of a pair of metallic pipes which have been internally and/or externally coated with a material to prevent corrosion, said method including forming a groove to provide a seat for a sealing ring and also forming a lip to enable said socket to overlap a heat sink member on the spigot and in contact with the metal of said spigot, and wherein the said lip is welded to said heat sink member.

5. A method as defined in claim 4, wherein the steps of

the formation of the socket end of the pipe at the joint with said groove and said lip, and the spigot end of the associated pipe, including the positioning of the said sink member, are performed off, or at, the site where the joint between the pipes is to be made.

6. A method as defined in claim 4 or 5, wherein the pipes are heated to a predetermined temperature and immersed in a fluidised bed of the material to prevent corrosion off, or at, the site where the joint between the pipes is to be made.

7. A method as defined in claim 6, wherein prior to immersion in the fluidised bed of the material to prevent corrosion the surfaces which are to be coated are grit blasted.

8. A method as defined in any one of claims 4 to 7, wherein the material to prevent corrosion is removed from the lip of the socket and the heat sink member off, or at, the site where the joint between the pipes is to be made.

9. A pair of pipes having socket and spigot ends adapted to be joined together by a pipe joint as defined in any one of claims 1 to 3, utilising the method of any one of claims 4 to 8.

10. A pipe joint between two metallic pipes, substantially as herein described with reference to the accompanying drawings.

11. A method of forming a pipe joint between a pair of metallic pipes, substantially as herein described with reference to the accompanying drawings.